

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A retaining wall anchoring system for a segmental retaining wall having a transverse passageway formed therein extending through a plurality of segmental retaining wall blocks in the wall, the anchoring system comprising:

at least one tieback rod adapted to be embedded into soil or rock with a proximal portion of the tieback rod extending into the transverse passageway; and

a force distribution member adapted to be positioned within the transverse passageway, to extend through a plurality of the segmental retaining wall blocks and to be connected to the tieback rod;

wherein tensile forces imposed on the tieback rod are transmitted to the force distribution member so as to distribute the tensile forces throughout a plurality of the retaining wall blocks in the retaining wall.

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, further comprising at least one washer positionable about the proximal portion of the tieback rod in abutment with the force distribution member.

26. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, further comprising at least one fastener adapted to be fixedly secured to the proximal portion of the tieback rod to securely clamp the force distribution member to the tieback rod.

27. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the proximal portion of the tieback rod is threaded and the fastener comprises at least one threaded nut.

28. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, comprising at least two force distribution members adapted to be positioned on opposite sides of the tieback rod.

29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the force distribution member is flanged.

30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, further comprising two washers which are positionable on opposite sides of the force distribution member so as to clamp the force distribution member therebetween.

31. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30, wherein each washer is flanged so as to be adapted to partially surround the force distribution member.

32. (Previously presented) A segmental retaining wall comprising a plurality of segmental retaining wall blocks, the wall comprising:

- a transverse passageway formed within the wall through a plurality of the segmental retaining wall blocks;

- a plurality of spaced tieback rods embedded into soil or rock and each having a proximal portion extending into the transverse passageway; and

- a force distribution member positioned within the transverse passageway, extending through a plurality of the retaining wall blocks and being connected to the tieback rods;

- wherein tensile forces imposed upon the tieback rods are transmitted to the force distribution member so as to distribute the tensile forces throughout a plurality of the retaining wall blocks in the retaining wall.

33. (Previously presented) The wall of claim 32, further comprising a plurality of washers positioned about the proximal portions of the tieback rods in abutment with the force distribution member.

34. (Previously presented) The wall of claim 32, further comprising a plurality of fasteners fixedly secured to the proximal portions of the tieback rods that securely clamp the force distribution member to the tieback rods.

35. (Previously presented) The wall of claim 34, wherein the proximal portions of the tieback rods are threaded and the fasteners comprise threaded nuts.

36. (Previously presented) The wall of claim 32, comprising at least two force distribution members disposed within the transverse passageway on opposite sides of the tieback rods.

37. (Previously presented) The wall of claim 32, wherein the force distribution member is flanged.

38. (Previously presented) The wall of claim 32, further comprising a plurality of washers positioned on opposite sides of the force distribution member so as to clamp the force distribution member therebetween.

39. (Currently amended) The wall of claim ~~38~~ 32, wherein each washer is flanged so as to partially surround the force distribution member.